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Customer Number

Patent  
Case No.: 58376US002**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

First Named Inventor: LIU, Z. GERALD

Application No.: 10/325001

Group Art Unit: 1724

Filed: December 20, 2002

Examiner: Richard L. Chiesa

Title: HIGH TEMPERATURE NANOFILTER, SYSTEM AND METHOD

**NOTICE OF APPEAL PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 41.31(a)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR § 1.8(a)]**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being:

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1/21/05

Signed by: Harold C. Knecht III

Dear Sir:

An appeal is made to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences from the last decision of the Examiner.

Please charge the fee provided in 37 CFR § 41.20(b)(1), and if necessary, charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3723. One copy of this sheet marked duplicate is also enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

Harold C. Knecht III, Reg. No.: 35,576  
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1/21/05

Date

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel  
3M Innovative Properties Company  
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833

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App. No. 10/675819  
Office Action Dated September 21, 2004  
Amd. Dated January 21, 2005

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

The connecting part 18 is provided in the following ways. One edge of the outside roof member 14A is bent toward inside of the vehicle body. Similarly, one edge of the outside side member 15A is also bent toward inside of the vehicle body. After that, a bent edge of the outside roof member 14A is lapped over a bent edge of the outside side member 15A to be connected to each other by means of a welding. Thereby, the connecting portion 18 is provided as a concave portion 18a as shown in Fig.2. Herein, the concave portion 18a extends over a longitudinal direction of the vehicle body. Furthermore, a roof ~~mole~~ mold (not shown) is attached to the concave part portion 18a to obtain a good appearance of the vehicle body. Specifically, said connecting part 18 is provided as a connecting part of the outside roof member 14A and the outside side member 15A mainly to gain enough strength and a good appearance.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

According to the structure of the closing cross-sectional shape, the strength of the roof member 14 and the side member 15 in the vicinity of the connecting part 18 can be efficiently increased. Thereby, the strength of attaching the vehicle door open-close device 1 to the roof member 14 and the side member 15 can be certainly secured. Similarly, the strength of attaching the gazette member 16 to the roof member 14 and the side member 15 can be certainly secured.

Additionally, [[a]] the depth of said concave portion 18a-as the connecting part 18 is generally not so deep shallow. Therefore, when each end portion of the inside roof member 14B and the inside side member 15B is connected to a lower surface of the connecting part 18, the following arrangement structure can be provided. The inside roof member 14B is provided in the vicinity of the outside roof member 14A, while the inside side member 15B is provided in the vicinity of the outside side member 15A. Thereby, a sectional area of said space S is increased so that a layout design of the vehicle door open-close device 1 can be widely selected. In the meantime,

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an interval between a top end portion of the door-opening area W and the gazette member [[6]] 16 is reduced so that a sectional area of said door-opening area W is increased.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

According to the aforementioned structure, the strength of the roof member 14 and the side member 15 in the vicinity of the connecting part 18 can be ~~more~~ increased. Thereby, the strength of attaching the vehicle door open-close device 1 to the roof member 14 and the side member 15 can be certainly secured. Similarly, the strength of attaching the gazette member 16 to the roof member 14 and the side member 15 can be secured. Herein, the roof ~~reinforcing~~ reinforce member 19 and the side ~~reinforcing~~ reinforce member 20 are made of a steel plate or the like.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

Additionally, as shown in Fig. [[1]] 2, an end portion 21a of said attaching reinforcement member 21 is connected to said connecting part 18 by means of a welding or the like. Thus, the strength of the roof member 14 and the side member 15 in the vicinity of the connecting portion 18 can be ~~more~~ increased. Thereby, the strength of attaching the vehicle door open-close device 1 to the roof member 14 and the side member 15 can be secured. Similarly, the strength of attaching the gazette member 16 to the roof member 14 and the side member 15 can be secured. Herein, said attaching reinforcement member 21 can be provided on the roof member 14 too.